

*Sunday, November 30, 2003*

## Paratroops celebrate holiday with community's orphans

Story and photo by Sgt. Brent M. Williams, 49<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment (Abn.)

**BAGHDAD, Iraq**—The Iraqi children were shy, staring at the festive decorations adorning the walls of the dining room where the paratroopers awaited their arrival. Hesitant at first, the children's timid faces began to smile.

The children, orphans from the southern village of Al Jebachy, came to Camp Falcon to celebrate the Islamic holiday Ramadan's Feast of Eid Al-Fitr Nov. 26.

The special dinner was arranged by 407<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jeff Douville and Battalion Chaplain Timothy D. Smith.

"The chaplain and I thought it would be a great idea to celebrate their Ramadan Feast and our Thanksgiving together," Douville said, "particularly with the orphan children of the village because it is a very lonely time of year for them."

Paratroopers of the 407<sup>th</sup> FSB, the combat support battalion for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division's 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, played host at the feast, serving hamburgers and spaghetti with meatballs and fruit, cake and ice cream for their special guests.

"The soldiers really enjoy being around the children this time of year, because it reminds them of family," Douville said.

Traditionally, Iraqi parents give their children special gifts to celebrate the holiday festivities; however, these children, many who lost their parents in what the Iraqi people call the "Saddam Wars" of the late 1980s and 1990s, normally go without, said Smith.

This year has marked a change for the children and the village on many different levels, said Maj. Bob Merkel, executive officer, 407<sup>th</sup> FSB.

The village of Jebachy, a rural stretch of land south of Al Rashid District in Baghdad, is home to more than 2,000 Iraqis, including the more than 70 orphans. In the time since the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT arrived in Baghdad in May, the 407<sup>th</sup> has taken responsibility for the village, working to renovate the neglected hamlet.

Working closely with the village's mayor, Musa Humadi Dawood, and leaders of the forward support battalion repaired schools, water-pumping stations, roadways and other special projects to help rebuild the impoverished area, said Douville. It was during this time that the mayor introduced his orphans to the battalion's commander and chaplain.

"We wanted to do something special for these orphans," Chaplain Smith said, "because we know the day following the end of Ramadan is a feast day, and in a regular family, the mother and father would have gifts for their children."

So after the meal, the combat support soldiers of Task Force Falcon delivered gifts of soccer balls and baby dolls, coloring books and crayons to the children.

"It's nice to interact with the children and get to know the people of Iraq," said Spc. Joseph Casey, mechanic, Company B, 407<sup>th</sup> FSB. "It makes you feel like we're actually making progress here."



**Paratrooper Spc. Jeremiah Peoples, Co. C, 407<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion hands a young orphaned Iraqi boy a soccer ball and coloring book as a gift during their Eid Al-Fitr celebration Nov 26.**

The children, unable to hide their smiles, hurriedly received the presents, gifts that came as the result of donations from families back at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Under the guidance and direction of Smith, the 407<sup>th</sup>'s Family Readiness Group is promoting a program called "Operation Iraqi Family." The FRG collects donations of clothes, shoes, and other needed items not only for the Iraqi orphans but also the poor, elderly, handicapped and widowed in Iraq.

Currently, the battalion receives the donations of money, clothes, shoes and other items through the mail service at their Army Post Office address.

The battalion's webpage, [www.407fsb.com](http://www.407fsb.com), carries full details about Operation Iraqi Family and the 65 Iraqi families it supports, said Smith.

"It leaves a message for the Iraqi people in Jebachy and our soldiers," Smith said, "... that Americans truly care about them by showing and sharing their lives."

The battalion plans to bring packages to the needy families in Al-Jebachy and hopes to bring the children back to Camp Falcon for another special meal around Christmas, said Smith.

"It shows the community that we care," said 407<sup>th</sup> FSB Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald DeVega, "that there is another side of us. We have families as well. We are here with open arms, and we're giving at the same time."

The event ended with the battalion chaplain leading the soldiers and their guests in a prayer for peace and happiness.

# *The Old Ironsides Report* November 30, 2003

## **News...**

### **Bush Asks U.S. to Help Military Personnel**

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) - President Bush, having surprised the nation with his Thanksgiving trip to Baghdad, asked Americans on Saturday to volunteer to help military personnel and their families. Ignoring criticism at home and in Iraq, Bush said he felt privileged to have been able to offer the nation's gratitude in person to some of the soldiers deployed in Iraq when he appeared at a Thanksgiving dinner at Baghdad International Airport on Thursday.

### **Iraqi Police May Have Coordinated Attacks**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - There is no evidence that al-Qaida terrorists have taken part in the long string of attacks on U.S. or Iraqi targets, but some U.S.-trained Iraqi police appear to have coordinated some of those assaults, the top U.S. military official in Iraq said Saturday. U.S. military officials are concerned that some attacks on Americans have been coordinated by a few of the numerous Iraqi civilians hired by the U.S. military, who may glean intelligence on troop movements and travels of high-ranking officers, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez told reporters at the Baghdad Convention Center.

### **EU Constitution Drafters Agree on Defense**

NAPLES, Italy (AP) - A plan by France, Britain and Germany to craft an independent military role for the European Union while keeping NATO as the continent's primary defender won broad support Saturday from foreign ministers meeting to draft the new EU constitution. The plan would create a planning and command cell for the EU at NATO's military headquarters in southern Belgium. The EU could use the alliance's intelligence, communications network and transport planes for peacekeeping operations under the proposal.

### **Woman Knocked Unconscious While Shopping**

ORANGE CITY, Fla. (AP) - A mob of shoppers rushing for a sale on DVD players trampled the first woman in line and knocked her unconscious as they scrambled for the shelves at a Wal-Mart Supercenter. Patricia VanLester had her eye on a \$29 DVD player, but when the siren blared at 6 a.m. Friday announcing the start to the post-Thanksgiving sale, the 41-year-old was knocked to the ground by the frenzy of shoppers behind her.

## **Sports...**

### **Sunday Dilemma in U.S.: Sports Vs. Church**

By **WAYNE PARRY**, Associated Press Writer

SUMMIT, N.J. (AP) -- Sports vs. church: It's become the Sunday morning dilemma in homes across the nation. With weekend sports leagues growing in popularity, schedules have stretched further into those Sunday morning hours that were once the exclusive domain of churches.

Now, clergy of many faiths are pushing back, asking coaches and time-starved parents to keep Sunday morning holy, even if it means their children's teams have to play some other time.

"I don't want my kids to grow up with great football memories and no Biblical knowledge," said Rev. Chuck Rush, senior minister at Christ Church in Summit, a New York City suburb. "You've got this dramatic pressure between playing sports and going to church, which isn't good."

The Summit Interfaith Council recently issued an appeal to public and private sports leagues to refrain from scheduling games before noon on Sunday.

Rush, who helped write the appeal, sees the church vs. sports conflict in his own home. His 13-year-old daughter, who plays soccer, is sometimes torn between religion and her loyalty to her team, where she stood a good chance of being named most valuable player.

It all boils down to time, and the precious lack of it for families. As the growing demands of homework, weekend errands and sports compete for families' free time, church often loses.

One church in Andover, Mass., recently conducted a marketing survey to find out when congregants had free time to attend weekend services. The most common response: Saturday at 5 p.m., because Sunday was all but booked.

But stacking games on Saturday isn't the answer for everyone. Those games inconvenience Jewish families, who sympathize with the churches' problem but would prefer their kids play on Sunday.

At St. Teresa of Avila R.C. Church in Summit, it's not uncommon to see youngsters in the pews dressed in soccer or football uniforms, ready to be whisked off to the field as soon as the last organ note fades.

Tom Brown, a baseball coach and St. Teresa parishioner, noted his league worked with the area churches to at least avoid conflicts between team picture day and the congregations' First Holy Communion days.

"We talked to them, got their dates, and we moved picture day," he said. "They really appreciated it, and we got a big thank you from the churches and the parents."

### **Chaplain's thought for the day**

#### **Dead Tree**

I remember one winter my dad needed firewood, and he found a dead tree and sawed it down. In the spring, to his dismay, new shoots sprouted around the trunk. He said, "I thought sure it was dead. The leaves had all dropped in the wintertime. It was so cold that twigs snapped as if there were no life left in the old tree. But now I see that there was still life at the taproot."



































He looked at me and said, "Bob, don't forget this important lesson. Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst mood. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come."

# The Old Ironsides Report

November 30, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2003				As of: Saturday, November 29, 2003 8:11:21 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			THE DIVISION : - THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE		FOX NEWS LIVE	00:00
00:30	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - ACC. MARYLAND VS WAKE FOREST FOREST (JIP)			COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ATLANTIC 10: ILLINOIS @ TEMPLE (JIP)		00:30
01:00			SHINE		FOX NEWS LIVE	01:00
02:00				NFL LIVE	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30	COLLEGE GAMEDAY			ESPNEWS	MCLAUGHLIN GROUP	02:30
03:00	COLLEGE GAMEDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03'-04') : - EPISODE 8	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - THE STORY OF SNUFFY	HEADLINE NEWS	CAPITAL GANG	03:00
03:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - A MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS (PT. 1)	AIR FORCE TV NEWS		03:30
03:45	ESPNEWS					03:45
04:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - PAC-10: NOTRE DAME @ STANFORD		PRECEPTS FOR LIFE : - CHARACTER (PT. 1)	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - BIG EAST: MIAMI @ PITTSBURGH	WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW	04:00
04:30		LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD	REAL VIDEOS : - CHASING FURIES		HEADLINE NEWS	04:30
05:00			THE BERNIE MAC SHOW : - SWEET HOME CHICAGO (PT. 1 & 2)		PEOPLE IN THE NEWS	05:00
05:30		ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT				05:30
06:00			AMERICAN IDOL: CHRISTMAS SONGS		CNN SATURDAY NIGHT	06:00
06:30		WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY				06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN DREAMS : - SILENT NIGHT		DATeline INTERNATIONAL	07:00
07:30	ESPNEWS	HOOR OF POWER - ENERGIZE YOUR FAITH		CORAL RIDGE HOUR : - MADE & REMADE IN HIS IMAGE		07:30
08:00	COLLEGE GAMEDAY	CELEBRATION OF VICTORY : - THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ABRAHAM	MAGNUM P.I. : - HEAL THYSELF	THE WORD IN THE WORLD : - THE STORY OF TOBIT	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:30		CORAL RIDGE HOUR : - MADE & REMADE IN HIS IMAGE		CAFE VIDEO : - PRODUCER'S PICKS		08:30
09:00	REAL SPORTS WITH BRYANT GUMBEL	THE WORD IN THE WORLD : - THE STORY OF TOBIT	FAMILY TIES : - JUST ONE LOOK	AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS	AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA	09:00
09:30		CAFE VIDEO : - PRODUCER'S PICKS	THE COSBY SHOW : - CLIFF BABYSITS			09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	WISHBONE : - BARK THAT BARK	CHIPS : - MOVING VIOLATION	WWE SMACKDOWN!	BELTWAY BOYS	10:00
10:30		CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG : - T-BONE DOG ABOUT TOWN/ CLIFFORD'S BIG HEART			FOX NEWS WATCH	10:30
11:00	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2003 BAYOU CLASSIC: SWAC - SOUTHERN VS GRAMBLING STATE	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - THE STORY OF SNUFFY	ANDROMEDA : - THE RISK ALL POINT	HEADLINE NEWS	11:00
11:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - A MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS (PT. 1)		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	11:30
12:00			PRECEPTS FOR LIFE : - CHARACTER (PT. 1)	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	12:00
12:30		RUGRATS : - CHUCKIE'S BACHELOR PAD	REAL VIDEOS : - CHASING FURIES	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	12:30
13:00		MOTORWEEK	THE BERNIE MAC SHOW : - SWEET HOME CHICAGO (PT. 1 & 2)	SMALLVILLE : - LINEAGE	BIG STORY WEEKEND EDITION	13:00
13:30		WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY				13:30
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN IDOL: CHRISTMAS SONGS	SAVING JESSICA LYNCH	CNN PRESENTS	14:00
14:30		AIR FORCE TV NEWS				14:30
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - GREAT ALASKA SHOOTOUT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TEAMS TBD	AMERICAN DREAMS : - SILENT NIGHT		FOX & FRIENDS	15:00
16:00	GOLF - 2003 SKINS GAME		MAGNUM P.I. : - HEAL THYSELF	HEADLINE NEWS	FOX & FRIENDS	16:00
16:30				SEINFELD : - THE BUBBLE BOY		16:30
17:00		SPORTSCENTER	FAMILY TIES : - JUST ONE LOOK	MEET THE PRESS	CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING	17:00
17:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - CLIFF BABYSITS			17:30
18:00		WWE SMACKDOWN!	CHIPS : - MOVING VIOLATION	AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM		18:00
18:30	SPORTSCENTER			ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	FACE THE NATION	18:30
19:00	NFL COUNTDOWN	ANDROMEDA : - THE RISK ALL POINT	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - THE STORY OF SNUFFY		HEADLINE NEWS	19:00
19:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - A MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS (PT. 1)	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	19:30
20:00		FOX NFL SUNDAY	PRECEPTS FOR LIFE : - CHARACTER (PT. 1)	THE NFL TODAY	LATE EDITION W/ WOLF BLITZER	20:00
20:30			REAL VIDEOS : - CHASING FURIES			20:30
21:00	NFL - PHILADELPHIA EAGLES @ CAROLINA PANTHERS	NFL - MINNESOTA VIKINGS @ ST. LOUIS RAMS	THE BERNIE MAC SHOW : - SWEET HOME CHICAGO (PT. 1 & 2)	NFL - NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS @ INDIANAPOLIS COLTS		21:00
22:00			AMERICAN IDOL: CHRISTMAS SONGS		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00			AMERICAN DREAMS : - SILENT NIGHT		FOX NEWS LIVE	23:00

# *The Old Ironsides Report* November 30, 2003

	NAVY	28		LIBERTY	31		BOWLING GRN (22)	31
	AIR FORCE	25		VMI	28		TOLEDO	23
	TENNESSEE (7)	20		WEST VIRGINIA (24)	45		VIRGINIA	35
	KENTUCKY	7		TEMPLE	28		VIRGINIA TECH (21)	21
	GEORGIA (5)	34		BOISE ST. (18)	56		FLORIDA ST. (9)	38
	GEORGIA TECH	17		NEVADA	3		FLORIDA (11)	34
	OLE MISS (17)	31		NEBRASKA (25)	31		MIAMI (OH) (15)	56
	MISSISSIPPI ST.	0		COLORADO	22		UCF	21
	LSU (3)	55		TEXAS (6)	46		TCU	20
	ARKANSAS	24		TEXAS A&M	15		SMU	13
	THE CITADEL	31					MIAMI (FL) (10)	28
	ELON	7					PITTSBURGH (20)	14